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TheHighlander

Thursday Jan 22 2026 | Issue 723

INSIDE: NEW MINDEN EATERY TOAST OF THE TOWN PAGE 11

FREE

Fishing for data

Frank Figuli performs a lake depth measurement with a handheld sonar device. *Submitted.*

Pressure for health unit over algae

By Lisa Gervais

U-Links, which does water quality testing for Haliburton County, and the County itself, plan to put pressure on Lakelands Public Health to lift its game when it comes to timely reporting of blue green algae blooms on Highlands lakes.

The topic came up at a Jan. 14 County council meeting when Andrew Gordon, director of U-Links, and Jim Prince, co-chair of U-Links and chair of Woodland & Waterways Eco Watch, updated council on the work they have been doing on their behalf.

Prince said, "we've all heard about the threat of (harmful) blue green algae blooms in Haliburton County, but there really isn't any data."

He said that around 2020, they believe there were about 11 blooms on Highlands' lakes. And while a number of lake associations chatted about it, no one was tracking the suspected, or confirmed, events.

He said the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Peterborough branch is involved. People can make a report to the spills centre, and if staff are available, they come to sample. However, he said they are not always available, especially on weekends and public holidays.

"Most of the time when they arrive, the algae bloom has dispersed and they aren't able to get a good sample."

Prince said they have sent data to Lakelands Public Health but they "don't do any reporting or provide public notifications. It's really different to other places in Ontario and Canada. Muskoka has a really robust reporting program. It alerts citizens about the hazards because your pets could die, you can't drink the water if there's an algae bloom near your cottage and you're drinking water from the lake; and one-third of lakefront properties drink water from the lake."

Lakelands Public Health said on Jan. 21 "sightings of possible blue green algae blooms are investigated and confirmed by the MECP. Lakelands Public Health's role is to communicate potential health risks and provide public health guidance. We work with MECP and the County of Haliburton when blooms could impact drinking water, public beaches, recreational water,

Continued **'Fairly'** on page 2

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Highlander news

‘Fairly good and decent water quality’ for now

Continued from page 1

camps for children, or other at-risk settings, to ensure the health needs of residents are addressed. And we will continue collaborating with the County of Haliburton following recent council discussions on how to best meet resident needs regarding health risks and guidance relating to blue green algae blooms.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) issues warnings with advice for the pubic. They also tell the public if they see a bloom that they should contact them and report to MECP. Current alerts for specific Muskoka lakes are posted on the SMDHU website and local municipal news pages.

Call to Lakelands Public Health

Prince said U-Links was willing to step up on the sampling side, which was important for making decisions and having historical data. U-Links is developing simple standard operating procedures for blooms to incorporate into their existing ‘testing the waters’ program. He said the plan is to put test kits in the hands of lake associations and citizen scientists. “It is not rocket science, it’s citizen science and it’s quite easy to do.” Prince said they are working with the MECP in Peterborough on the initiative.

He added they had put a call out to Lakelands Public Health to gauge “their appetite to get involved for reporting and public notifications.”

After the presentation, deputy warden Liz Danielsen commented, “my primary concern is the lack of willingness by Lakelands Public Health to provide information to residents advising them of the dangers associated with that. We’ve run into that a couple of times in Algonquin Highlands. They basically threw it back at us, ‘it’s your responsibility’ but it is not.” She asked if there was “anything we can do to encourage, kind of push the health unit a little bit to assume their own responsibilities?”

Prince said they are reaching out to new medical officer of health, Dr. Thomas Piggott.

Coun. Cec Ryall is the vice chair of the health unit’s board of directors. He was planning to raise the issue with senior staff at this week’s public health meeting, calling it “a serious issue for our neck of the woods.”

Coun. Bob Carter said it wasn’t a new issue, and it had been raised with the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit in the past. It’s been discussed at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario level.

“I don’t quite understand how we got to this point, so many other health units have taken this as a responsibility….”

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux said the County could step up in a formal way, to stress the need for health unit involvement in issues around lake health. The health unit does do beach testing in the summer. CAO Gary Dyke said he planned to reach out to Piggott as well.

> *“It is not rocket science, it’s citizen science and it’s quite easy to do.”*
>
> ***Jim Prince, U-Links***

Program expanding to 67 lakes

Meanwhile, Gordon said the benthic biomonitoring program that began in 2019 had left most County lakes in good biological shape. However, he said checking 12 water quality parameters remains important. ‘Testing the waters’ monitors three times a year, including ice-on sampling, including on drawdown lakes.

They started in 2022 with nine lake associations and 20 lakes. By 2025, they had grown to 25 lake associations and 39 lakes. They are hoping to expand the program again, to 30 lake associations and 67 lakes in 2026. U-Links is now talking to associations for Maple-Beech-Cameron; Redstone; Eagle and Moore; Percy; Twelve Mile - Little Boshkung; and Soyers lakes.

Jim Prince uses a meter which measures pH and conductivity of the lake water. *Submitted.*

They are also looking for another control lake; to supplement the one they use on Stocking Lake in Haliburton Forest.

When it comes to trends, Gordon said lakes are becoming a little less clear and more turbid. He said initially people might be alarmed, “but this is actually a good thing because these lakes are recovering from the system level impact of acid rain that turned everything to vinegar back in the 1960s and 1970s, and so this is an absolutely normal biological response that we are seeing here. They are not going to turn into swamps or bogs; at some point that line is going to level out.”

Gordon added this is why long-term data is important. He said aquatic scientists say it takes about 18 years to identify a trend.

The program costs about $105,000 a year, with Haliburton County kicking in about 60 per cent, or $62,500. The 2025 results for the tested lakes will be available soon. Gordon said they have found “fairly good and decent water quality in Haliburton County lakes at the present time and if you keep up with (being cognizant of what to do to shorelines; septic inspections and water quality testing), 50 years down the road, we might actually be able to survive climate change and we’ll have some good water quality.”

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Highlander news

Strong mayor showdown over budget

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter's decision to veto eight of council's amendments to his Strong Mayors budget has some members of the public calling him power hungry, while others say councillor-at-large Tammy McKelvey is playing politics in leading the charge against parts of the budget because she is planning to run for mayor in the fall.

Carter had to inform council and the public in writing about any vetoes, and did so Jan. 16.

Council approved more than 25 changes Jan. 6. A number of them were to include charges that were unknown or unavailable at the time of the first draft, while others were to correct errors or omissions. Carter accepted 17 of those.

However, he drew his line in the sand last week on a number of key items, including: wanting to proceed with an organics program for the township ($39,000) as well as a new bulldozer for Scotch Line landfill ($150,000); keeping in a pickup truck for the roads department ($120,000) as well as hiring a roads labourer ($80,000); holding off on riverwalk lighting; not putting $50,000 into the budget to do something at the old fire hall; and not using tax dollars for sidewalk and crosswalk work.

However, his decisions are not final. Council can challenge and override any or all of them with a two-thirds majority vote. That will happen at a Jan. 29 meeting when the budget would be finalized. McKelvey, who led most of the amendments, said on Jan. 19 that she had not yet decided what, if anything, she would challenge.

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter.

Minden Hills councillor-at-large Tammy McKelvey.

Carter said his changes would put the tax increase at 4.46 per cent. He told council and the public the financial plan "was developed to meet certain goals for the community. The budget sustained and strove to enhance essential programs and services. The budget continued a robust capital investment program, focusing on infrastructure and put aside 1.5 per cent for future capital needs. The budget included funding for a new community centre in Lochlin and environmental enhancements at Scotch Line waste facility. This was all done while maintaining healthy financial reserves and attempting to keep tax rates affordable."

McKelvey to run for mayor

While some members of the public are accusing Carter of being power hungry, he told *The Highlander* on Jan. 19 he didn't ask for the powers, "but that's the law of the land, and then the whole budget process becomes a very prescribed set of events where I work with staff, not on my own, and come up with a budget and it goes through many iterations. Staff are really the people on the ground hearing the complaints and seeing the needs so they developed something."

He said his goal was to make things affordable, and ensure the township's reserves were healthy while maintaining, or enhancing, services where possible.

The Highlander noted less than half of Ontario's mayors were using their powers before a sweeping expansion of the system to 170 new communities; and that some mayors, from Newmarket, Tecumseth, Norfolk County and Haldimand County were not using the Act.

Carter conceded a mayor can't opt out, but can decide to use only certain parts of the power. "The law is the law. I'm trying to do the best for the people of Minden Hills. Although people are putting it on to social media that I'm taking away things that council's approved with these vetoes, I'm actually, in most cases, adding something back and doing it where the tax rate is lower than what they are proposing."

McKelvey said she is "totally 1,000 per cent opposed to strong mayors' powers; not anything to do against our present mayor. I just philosophically disagree with one person being given that power. It's not democratic."

The Highlander asked McKelvey point blank if she was planning to run for mayor in the fall.

"Yes, I'm going to run for mayor, but that has nothing to do with what I'm doing right now."

Stick it to hunger

This past weekend, the U15 REP Cheryl Smith RE/MAX and U18 rep Haliburton Timber Mart Highland Storm teams hosted a home tournament and asked the community to rally behind the stick it to hunger campaign. Cheryl Smith said, "thanks to your generosity, we proudly filled a hockey bag with food donations for the Minden Community Food Centre. And to make it even more special, the 50/50 winner donated their winnings back to the food bank. Community, teamwork, and giving back — this is what minor hockey is all about. Huge thanks to everyone who donated, supported, and cheered these players on.

Right: The U15 team with Jim Wilson, chair of the Minden Community Food Centre. *Submitted.*

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Highlander news

Carbon monoxide detector law changes

The Township of Minden Hills says important changes to the Ontario Fire Code that took effect Jan. 1 are aimed at enhancing safety in residential spaces.

Under the updated regulations, all residential occupancies, including homes, apartments and other dwellings that contain a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace, or attached garage must have: a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm adjacent to each sleeping area and a CO alarm on each storey without a sleeping area (on every floor).

Ontario Regulation 87/25 (O. Reg. 87/25) made under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, makes changes to the Ontario Fire Code (O. Reg 213/07) that includes additional carbon monoxide detector requirements.

The Township of Minden Hills fire and building departments are encouraging all residents to review their current CO alarm setup and make necessary updates now that the new requirements are in place.

"The Minden Hills fire department is always available to help you with your CO and smoke alarms. The goal is to ensure that working CO and smoke alarms are in every home across the township," they said.

"With cooler temperatures and our windows closed, CO risks increase. Follow these tips to stay safe: book an annual inspection of all fuel-burning appliances: furnaces, fireplaces, gas stoves, gas dryers and chimneys; keep vents, intakes and exhaust pipes clear of snow and debris; never idle your car in the garage, even with the door open; only use generators and fuel-powered equipment outside, far from windows, doors, or vents and do not use gas stoves, ovens, BBQs, or camping equipment to heat your home unless the device is designed for indoor use." *(Lisa Gervais)*

New carbon monoxide detector rules came into place Jan. 1. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Notice of Application for Approval to Expropriate Land

Form 2
Expropriations Act

IN THE MATTER OF the proposed expropriation of land by the Minister of Transportation, in the Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton, Province of Ontario.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF culvert replacement, rockfall hazard improvements and future rehabilitation and maintenance of King's Highway 35 and all other works related thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made for approval to expropriate the land described in the schedule attached hereto.

The approving authority is the Minister of Transportation with an address of:

Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200

Any owner of lands in respect of which notice is given, who desires to comment on the proposed expropriation of the land for the described purpose(s) may do so by submitting the comment within the time stated herein to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Transportation Infrastructure Management Division, Ministry of Transportation, in writing.

The Ministry will review the comments for their technical/engineering information, having regard to the need for the land for the purposes of the project.

The Assistant Deputy Minister must receive the comments within thirty days after the owner is served with this notice, or within thirty days after the first publication of the notice.

The comments must be sent:

By e-mail to: Property.Process@ontario.ca

Or by mail to: Assistant Deputy Minister
Transportation and Infrastructure Management
Ministry of Transportation
4th Floor, Garden City Tower
301 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7R4

Please include the municipal address of the land in the comment.

The expropriating authority is the Minister of Transportation with an address of:

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
416-327-9200

Minister of Transportation

Per: *"original signed by Cristina Makitalo"*

c/o Cristina Makitalo
Conveyancing Supervisor
447 McKeown Avenue, Suite 301
North Bay, ON P1B 9S9

SCHEDULE A

All right, title and interest in the lands described as follows:

1. Part of PIN 39254-0178 (LT); Part of Lot 27, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 1 on 19R-11127 (Ministry Plan P-2789-184). Part 1 is subject to easement as in H43977.
2. Part of PIN 39208-0181 (LT); Part of Lot 15, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 1 on 19R-11124 (Ministry Plan P-2789-187).
3. Part of PIN 39254-0177 (LT); Part of Lot 27, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 2 on 19R-11127 (Ministry Plan P-2789-184)

All right, title and interest for a limited period from January 1, 2026, up to and including December 31, 2031, in the lands described as follows:

1. Part of PIN 39254-0183 (LT); Part of Lot 27, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Parts 1 & 2 on 19R-11126 (Ministry Plan P-2789-183). Part 2 is subject to Easement as in H246325.
2. Part of PIN 39254-0185 (LT); Part of Lot 27, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 3 on 19R-11126 (Ministry Plan P-2789-183).
3. Part of PIN 39208-0066 (LT); Part of Lot 19, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 1 on 19R-11123 (Ministry Plan P-2789-185).
4. Part of PIN 39208-0067 (LT); Part of Lots 18 and 19, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 1 on 19R-11125 (Ministry Plan P-2789-186). Part 1 is subject to Easement as in H70717.
5. Part of PIN 39255-0164 (LT); Part of Lots 18 and 19, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton; Designated as Part 2 on 19R-11125 (Ministry Plan P-2789-186).

THIS NOTICE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED ON: JANUARY 15, 2026.

Ontario

Highlander news

Mail workers to vote on Canada Post offer

By Mike Baker

Despite Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) coming to tentative terms on a new contract for mail carriers, local union president Kelly Lawr said it isn't guaranteed workers will support the deal.

Recently elected as the union lead of Local 564 covering Haliburton County and the Kawartha Lakes, Lawr said it was welcome news when, on Dec. 22, Canada Post and CUPW announced agreements had been formalized for both the urban and RSMC (rural and suburban mail carrier) bargaining units.

Approximately 53,000 of the Crown corporation's employees had been working without a renewed contract for two years – with collective agreements for rural carriers expiring Dec. 31, 2023, and for urban workers Jan. 31, 2024.

"It was nice to know something had been offered. It feels like we've been in limbo for so long," Lawr told *The Highlander* in a Jan. 16 interview. "The feeling has been pretty negative, especially since talks stopped in the fall and [Canada Post] walked away from the table. So, this is a step in the right direction, but there's still a lot of mixed feelings on the offer itself and the language that's being used.

"It is being recommended by national that we vote 'yes' for this new contract, but it's hard to have a full opinion right now because we still don't have the full collective agreement. We're still waiting to go over a lot of the details," she added.

In a notice to all CUPW members, the union's lead negotiators Lana Smidt and Francois Senneville said they had secured enough improvements from Canada Post's most recent offer, made in October, to recommend approving a deal.

The contract is for five years, backdated to the expiry of the most recent RSMC contract and running until Jan. 31, 2029. It includes a 6.5 per cent increase in year one – which equates to an additional 1.5 per cent with workers receiving a five per cent raise last January under the terms of a bridge contract – and a three per cent hike in year two, with raises in years three, four and five being tied to inflation.

Canada Post says the deal also maintains employees' defined benefit pensions, enhances health benefits and offers improved income replacement for injury-on-duty leave and ups the number of personal days per year from seven to 13. There will also be more job security for rural carriers, the crown corporation states.

Notably, Lawr said, the contract includes details for Canada Post adjusting its operating model to support weekend parcel delivery and will transition salaried staff to hourly pay. She's unsure, though, how that will unfold.

Before any deal can be ratified, it must be supported by at least 50 per cent of workers. During voting on a previous offer in October, 43,370 of 53,614 active CUPW members cast a ballot, with 68.5 per cent of urban workers and 69.4 per cent of rural employees turning it down.

Lawr said workers have been asking for a three-to-four per cent pay increase in years three, four and five of the contracts, rather than have it tied to inflation.

"A lot of us just want this to be over, but we have to hold strong on some things," she said.

The local, comprised of about 100 workers, will be meeting later this month, with Lawr hoping they'll have more details to share with members. CUPW said it hoped to finalize all existing items by Jan. 16 so that frameworks can be issued to each local.

Smidt and Senneville confirmed there will be no strike or lockout activities during the ratification vote period.

Canada Post and CUPW have reached a tenatative agreement on a new five-year contract. *File.*

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Highlander news

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Guest Speakers include:

- Gary Dyke, CAO, County of Haliburton
- Angelica Ingram, Manager of Tourism
- Neil Vanderstoop, Haliburton County Snowmobile Association

If you would like to learn more about this event or are considering become a member of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce visit us at:
haliburtonchamber.com

Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

Robinson honoured

County of Haliburton director of corporate services, Andrea Robinson, was honoured at a Jan. 14 council meeting as she enters her 20th year with the municipality.

CAO Gary Dyke said Robinson joined the County in March 2005 as its first financial assistant. From there, she has held various positions, including financial analyst, deputy treasurer, manager of human resources, and in 2021, the position she holds today, which is director of corporate services and treasurer.

"Andrea has never been afraid to take on these other duties as assigned and, from time to time, you can find her planning social events, volunteering with the AMCTO (the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario), decorating, riding in a snow plow, line dancing, snow shoveling and hanging out on a Santa Claus parade float," Dyke said.

He added she had always been dedicated to the County's priorities and been a leader throughout some tough years, showing grace, kindness and understanding.

Personally, he said Robinson's work with him had been invaluable for being able to move things forward, and creating a more modernized and transparent budget process.

Robinson said it had been a great 20 years at the County, "and I can honestly say it's been 20 years because of the great people I've been able to work with."

Warden Dave Burton thanks director of corporate services, Andrea Robinson, for 20 years at the County, while CAO Gary Dyke applauds in the background. *Photo submitted.*

Accessibility awards

The County approved an accessibility awards program at the meeting.

Director of community outreach, Sue Tiffin, said the accessibility advisory committee annual accessibility awards program will start in 2026 to celebrate individuals, organizations, businesses and youth within Haliburton County "who are working to build a more inclusive community and making a difference in the lives of citizens of Haliburton County living with a disability."

Award winners will get a certificate. The committee recommend the recipient of the youth award receive $100. Categories will include: community member, organization, business and youth; and cover built environment, customer service, education, employment, health care and information and communication.

Nominations open Jan. 19 until March 31, and the awards will be presented May 27 during national accessibility week.

(County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

Preventing cancer

Highlands East fire chief Chris Baughman said his department was successful in receiving approval for the 2025-26 fire protection grant.

He said the money is to be used for cancer prevention and, or lithium-ion battery fire fighting and prevention.

The township will be getting $79,497. With the money, the department is looking to acquire personal protective equipment, and supplies, such as wildland fire coveralls and helmets; self-contained breathing apparatus masks; particulate blocking flash hoods; bunker gear; fire gloves; gas analyzers for air monitoring and lithium vehicle fire blankets.

At a Jan. 13 meeting, deputy mayor Cec Ryall asked if lithium fires were becoming an issue, or if the department was being proactive.

Baughman said they had not experienced many of the fires in Highlands East, but it is an issue elsewhere.

"The problem with those fires is they are self-fueling so it doesn't matter how much water we put on them; they will continue to burn anyway, so that's where these fire blankets would come into place. It would cover, stay with the vehicle, and go with the vehicle on the tow truck." He added they could be used on scooters at Maple View housing in Wilberforce. Coun. Angela Lewis thanked him for writing the grants.

Highlands East mayor Dave Burton chairs a meeting. *File.*

Council appointment to conservation authority

Council appointed mayor Dave Burton to be Highlands East's representative on the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) for 2026.

In a report to council, municipal clerk Robyn Rogers said the CVCA watershed covers an area of approximately 2,006-square kilometres, and is comprised of three sub-watersheds: the Crowe River, North River and Beaver Creek.

Each year it is required that one council member be appointed by council to represent the municipality on the authority's board of directors.

Ryall noted the Ontario government is significantly reducing the number of conservation authorities. The province announced in late 2025 its plans to consolidate the province's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional bodies, and create a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency for centralized oversight.

Ryall said, "it's extremely important that we put somebody on that committee to make sure, there's something going on."

(Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

Waste days upped

Algonquin Highlands council learned the township is getting a break on costs for hosting four household hazardous waste events this year.

Melissa Murray, the municipality's environmental manager, told council during a Jan. 15 meeting that running the events will set the township back $6,000 in 2026, down from the $9,000 they cost last year. In 2024, the first year they were offered through the current partner Green For Life Environmental (GFL), the cost was $4,000.

"It's still not inexpensive by any means, but a little easier on the budget," Murray said.

Events are proposed for May 30 at the Maple Lake waste disposal site, Aug. 8 at Oxtongue Lake, and Sept. 5 at the Dorset transfer station, with a second event scheduled at Maple Lake Oct. 17. All events will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with dates subject to change.

County-wide there will be 12 household hazardous waste days this year – Dysart and Minden Hills will host three each, with Highlands East hosting two.

Materials collected include antifreeze; motor and lubricating oils; automotive additives and cleaners; fuel; paints and coatings; finishing products such as varnish and glue; solvents, pesticides and fertilizers; pool chemicals; aerosol cans, propane cylinders, fire extinguishers and some cleaning products.

Murray noted 231 vehicles accessed three events in Algonquin Highlands last year, with the township covering the $34,187.94 bill for hauling and processing of materials.

Food vendors wanted

The township is looking for would-be entrepreneurs looking to get their foot in the door of the local food service industry.

Public works director Adam Thorn said the committee overseeing Stanhope Municipal Airport wants council to sign off on purchasing a fully-kitted seacan for up to $75,000, to be used by a food vendor at the airport.

"We did have one for a little while, but it's been a struggle finding someone to come back. The committee is proposing purchasing a seacan that can be turned into a kitchen. It's a neat design," Thorn said.

The seacan would be placed beside the terminal building and would allow the existing cookshack to be sold or moved elsewhere within the township. The committee suggested council put out a submissions of interest to the public, to see what comes back.

Mayor Liz Danielsen liked the idea, especially if it generates revenue for the township. The request will be considered during 2026 budget deliberations, slated for Feb. 23-24.

Online bookings open

Chris Card, the township's manager of parks, recreation and trails told council that the online reservation system for the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails and local campsites went live Jan. 1.

He also spoke of the success of three recently-launched programs, in partnership with the Haliburton County

New programming has been launched at the Dorset Recreation Centre. *File.*

Seniors Active Living Centre program (SALC). The initiative is designed for adults 55 and older to get active, make friends and live healthy lives in the Highlands.

Through the initiative, the township launched a functional fitness program for seniors at the Stanhope Community Centre, a fitness success workshop and drop-in cornhole, both at the Dorset Recreation Centre.

"All programs have been well-received and well-attended," Card said.

He also told council that the township's ski trails are track-set, with crews back out Jan. 19 for repairs.

Cancer support

The Algonquin Highlands Fire Department has received $48,000 in provincial funding to enhance its cancer prevention program.

"Unfortunately, firefighters in Ontario are 30 per cent more susceptible to getting cancer than the regular person. Having this grant process allows us to put programs in place to lower the possibility," said fire chief Mike French. "Cancer is prevalent in our department. We have had a couple cases, so it's really nice to see the support from the provincial government on this."

Rise of AI

A new policy outlining guidelines for use of artificial intelligence by township employees is coming down the pipeline.

Digital transformation coordinator Michelle Adlam told council staff are routinely using programs like Microsoft Copilot and ChatGPT in their day-to-day, with the County in the process of identifying training protocols and suggestions for how to best utilize the software.

Asked by Danielsen if there are any security issues that could arise from the expansion of AI services, Adlam said there is some risk.

"Cyber security, from what I understand, continues to be a large concern for all organizations and municipalities. The County is investing in additional resources to support some cyber security activities," Adlam said. "I think it'll continue to need to be top of mind and something we'll need to provide training, education and guidance on." *(Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Mike Baker)*

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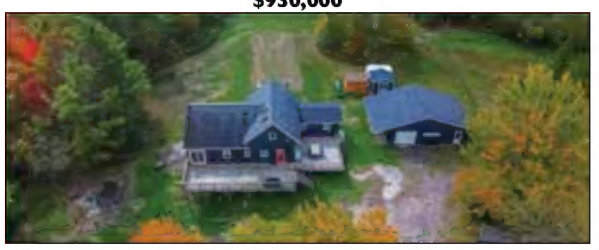

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Blooming frustrating

By Lisa Gervais

It happens every summer.

Someone thinks they have a blue green algae bloom on their lake. They take photos and post them to social media. They might call us or another news media outlet. They may reach out to their lake association. There is a scramble about what to do next.

Invariably, it's a weekend or public holiday. Their township office is closed. No one is returning phone calls. They can leave an email message. It might get a response Monday morning. They find out they can report the bloom to the Ministry of Conservation, Environment and Parks (MECP). Naturally, it's not working hours, though, so they get no response to telephone calls. They may find a spills centre contact online. They might even fill something out, but, again, no one is coming until the next business day. By then, the bloom is likely dissipated and the threat removed.

In the meantime, people don't know if they, or their pets, are safe to swim, drink the lake water, or do anything recreational. The urgency passes. No one ever knows for sure if it was a legitimate blue green algae bloom. It does not become part of a public database and makes it hard for us to fully track lake health in the Highlands.

It isn't good.

On top of that, our local public health unit has dropped the ball. There are no notifications from them about suspected, or confirmed, blooms. No public health warnings.

It's not a new issue however, it raised its head once again at last week's County council meeting.

Andy Gordon and Jim Prince were updating the County on the 'testing the waters' program U-Links has been doing for them for a few years now. Prince tackled the blue green algae issue, noting the County had been left high and dry by the health unit when it came to algae reporting and public health warnings. It was noted this is not the case in other jurisdictions in Ontario and Canada. Our neighbour to the west, Muskoka, was singled out for doing a good job of ensuring the public knows about blooms, and in a timely fashion.

The U-Links folks, and council, are hopeful the new Lakelands Public Health does a better job in future, planning to talk to new medical officer of health, Dr. Thomas Piggott.

U-Links is also looking to develop a program for citizen scientists in our area to test the water when suspected blooms occur. However, we'd still need the MECP to lift its game and provide lab results in a timely manner, not Monday to Friday 9-5. And, we encourage Lakelands Public Health to join the citizen scientists and MECP in doing a much better job of getting the word out.

While I applaud U-Links and other citizen scientists for doing the province's work over the last number of years when it comes to lake health, I encourage the province, whether it's the MECP or health unit, to step up and do the work they should be doing with our hard-earned provincial tax dollars.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Right choice to live in the woods

by Susan Tromanhauser

Changing jobs from assisting people with fractured limbs to rehabbing injured wildlife is an apt metaphor to describe Alyx Auchinvole's life. The self-professed "city girl" is now an outdoorswoman.

Born in Scarborough 30 years ago, and raised in Whitby, Auchinvole began her career in the fracture and plastics clinic at an Oshawa area hospital. Auchinvole's colleagues faced the challenges of the SARS crisis, so when the COVID virus emerged, many left on stress leave, finding themselves unable to face another health emergency.

This left Auchinvole working in an understaffed, overworked environment. When she finally emerged from the COVID crisis, together with her husband, Auchinvole reconsidered life choices. Realizing they were in jobs they did not enjoy, living in a house too big for them, and surrounded by too many people, they made "a big, but easy decision to sell everything and move to a house in the woods."

Familiar with the Highlands from visits to the Long Lake cottage her husband's parents once owned, they found a home in Gooderham. They soon discovered the quiet and "good atmosphere" of the area was exactly what they needed. Her husband began his own business, Highlands Helical and Excavating, and Auchinvole became a part-time administrative assistant at SIRCH.

The couple soon became close with their neighbours and it was one such neighbour who knew Auchinvole was "crazy about animals" and advised her to get involved with the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary. A chance meeting with Monica Melichar, the founder and president of the organization, set things in motion and Auchinvole is now a busy volunteer with Woodlands.

Auchinvole "does a lot of cleaning," but takes pride in knowing the role she plays helping with an assortment of animals. Auchinvole lists squirrels, possums, porcupines, turtles, skunks, every kind of bird, including geese, duck, and sand cranes as patients at the facility. Auchinvole enjoys experiencing the full circle of animal restoration. People who find wild animals hurt or in distress can call the centre to make arrangements for support. The person who found the animal has the opportunity to release it back to where the animal was found. In between, Auchinvole participates by weighing, feeding and watering "and there is a lot of cleaning."

When not at Woodlands or SIRCH, Auchinvole enjoys outdoor walks and her favourite summer pastime, paddle boarding to an island on Glamour Lake to spend time alone with a book. The one thing Auchinvole misses from the city is sushi, but she can get her Asian food fix during her bi-weekly visits to Scarborough, visiting her grandmother, whom she calls her best friend.

Alyx Auchinvole. *Submitted.*

The move to the Highlands was the right decision for Auchinvole and her husband. "He is a man of few words but I can tell he is happy here." She said he loves his work and the people he interacts with. For the Auchinvole couple, their big decision was the right decision - to live in a house in the woods.

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Surprising random act of kindness

Dear editor,

The week before Christmas, my husband and I booked a stay for some R&R at Haliburton Heights Resort. The facility provided no amenities and so the staff, Kelly and Tatiana, worked valiantly to make our stay as comfortable as possible.

Following a trip to Skyline Park and BJ Peel Pottery, we returned to the Village of Haliburton, stopped at the A&W restaurant to use its facilities and decided to order lunch while we were there. And this is when we experienced a moment we will never forget. As my husband reached into his pocket for his wallet, a stranger approached him, tapped him on the shoulder and said "put it away, I'm paying for it." To our surprise, he proceeded to pay the full cost of our lunch.

We were stunned. We thanked him and when we asked why, he smiled and said, "you both came in smiling."

We chatted for a bit, and found out his name was Brian, a lifelong resident of Haliburton. He then rejoined his companion. As they prepared to leave the restaurant, we wished each other well and they left.

We may never meet Brian again but his kindness has stayed, leaving a lasting impression. In a world that often feels rushed, distant and lonely, this simple act reminded us how powerful generosity can be and how deeply it can touch the heart.

Vince and Norma Chicoine
London, ON

An inconvenient truth

Dear editor,

I'm responding to the recent letter by Keith Stata that described people who declined the COVID vaccine as anti-vaxxers and "snake oil salesmen" blaming them for clogging up hospital beds. That claim doesn't hold up. Hospitalizations were never just about vaccination status. Age, obesity, chronic illness, and access to early treatment mattered far more. Many unvaccinated people never went near a hospital, while many vaccinated people did. Reducing a complex situation to finger-pointing is misleading and dishonest.

Just like the letter writer, I also research medication and shots but from both sides of the fence.

We were also told several things during COVID that later turned out to be wrong. We were told the vaccines would prevent infection. They didn't. We were told they would stop transmission. They didn't. We were told masks would reliably block viral spread in everyday settings. That claim was greatly overstated. And we were told the spike protein produced by the vaccine would stay at the injection site. It doesn't, potentially harming vital organs. Early safety concerns were severely censored.

None of this makes someone "anti-science" or anti-vax. It makes them observant and open to discussion. Not to be smeared or censored. Science is supposed to correct itself, not punish people for noticing when official claims fail or fall short.

Shaming people for medical choices while ignoring these errors doesn't protect public health. It erodes trust. And once trust is gone, it's very hard to get back.

Gary Grosschadl
Minden Hills

Mutual benefit

Dear editor,

I am responding to Keith Stata's letter from Jan. 15

For the purpose of verification, the article cited below can be accessed at 'Life Sciences, a mainstream medical journal: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0024320523005428]

In his response to my earlier comment, Keith W. Stata both personalizes and generalizes to make his point.

On the first point, his longevity may be viewed as the product of many factors, in addition to the 'great doctors' he has consulted. On the other hand, it is a whopping exaggeration for him to suggest that those who refused the shot wound up in hospital. Among the many vaccine refusers of my acquaintance, nary a one experienced such an outcome.

More important, in my comment I wrote nothing in opposition to vaccination. My point was that defamatory remarks, while placing the perpetrator in legal jeopardy, can only retard our understanding of the phenomenon of healing.

In mainstream medicine it is now accepted knowledge that "mutations and polymorphisms in a wide range of immune regulating genes...distinctively predisposed individuals to COVID-19 and increased disease severity." Apart from mRNA vaccines themselves, it is reported by the same source that certain medicinal agents, such as INNA-051, when nasally administered, can reduce viral load by modulating immune-associated genes. "Consequently," the authors write, "this study found that INNA-051 complements the vaccination regime."

Complementarity is indeed a key to progress in this, as in any field. So why cannot the various streams of medical knowledge coexist without rancor, but instead with mutual benefit?

Other than budgetary and reputational considerations, what could possibly prevent a curious researcher from investigating the antiviral properties of, say, herbal and homeopathic medicines, or of traditional practices such as acupuncture and tai-chi?

Doug Smith PhD
Haliburton County

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

After visiting friends on Bat Lake, Jamie Maxwell spotted this tranquil scene on a walk to the car. "Just a quiet, beautiful moment."

Highlander community

Our Sleeping in Cars event does more than raise funds for Places for People — it shines a light on a critical issue: the need for safe, appropriate housing for everyone in our community.

Affordable housing isn't just a statistic — it's the people you see every day: the cashier scanning your groceries, the hairstylist cutting your hair, the server bringing your meal. Many of these hardworking community members struggle to find housing they can afford.

Too many people in our county are homeless or hidden in "invisible" situations — couch surfing, living in unsafe or overcrowded conditions, or even sleeping in their cars.

For more information

Friday, March 27, 2026

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Feeding community

The Haliburton ATV Association made a $10,000 donation to the Minden Community Food Centre Jan. 14, proceeds raised during the group's 2025 riding season. Group director, Joel Bocknek, said the association hosted several guided rides across the County last year, raising money through donations and sales of mapbooks and trail passes. "In this period of escalating living expenses and soaring food costs, too many people within our local community have become dependent on using the Minden Community Food Centre," Bocknek said. "Our donation will assist them in meeting the needs of the community." Food bank manager, Jean Munroe, said the money will directly support the purchase of nutritious food for local families. "We are grateful for this remarkable gift… the Haliburton ATV Association's support will have an immediate impact on families who rely on us," she said. "Partnerships like this remind us that we're working toward the same goal – making sure everyone in Minden feels supported." The facility supports more than 320 families per month. *(Mike Baker)*

Above: Mike Bukowski, left, and Joel Bocknek, right, representing the Haliburton ATV Association, dropped off a $10,000 donation to the Minden Community Food Centre Jan. 14, presenting the cheque to manager Jean Munroe. *Photo submitted.*

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Highlander business

Minden's newest eatery toast of the town

By Lisa Gervais

It's been six weeks since Toast opened in Minden and co-owner Tara Schroeder says the breakfast and lunch spot is proving popular.

"We see it going well here. It's been very busy," she said while seated in one of 50 seats inside the former Lounge and 50s Diner space earlier this week.

She and husband, Andrew Schroeder, also own the Mason Jar in Carnarvon.

"I think once the Mason Jar took off, and we got such a good response from it, we immediately started thinking 'okay, what's next?' Tara said.

She said they felt they'd hit on something with their food truck, and wondered what else they could do to meet the community's dining needs. She began some research.

"We really wanted a space where we could also thrive in the shoulder seasons because the Mason Jar really only lifts us up in that spring to fall period, so that really was the vision in part of our expansion, 'let's have a place where people can sit down in the winter.'

After Lounge closed late last January and sat empty for a while, the Schroeders found their new location. "It all came together and happened so fast," Tara said.

They got to work, with Andrew heading up the kitchen and Tara front of house. "Divided and conquered," Tara said. They built a kitchen and renovated the eating area, hosting a soft opening the week of Dec. 11. They are open five days a week.

"For our vision, I wanted something more homey, modern and bright," Tara said.

The word flexible comes up in conversation. Tara said the restaurant will change based on the community's needs.

For example, she said people are inquiring about having events after the breakfast-lunch space closes for the day. She also mentioned pivoting to a breakfast and brunch locale since the majority of diners are ordering their classic breakfasts.

They have so far been able to find enough staff although Tara will ramp up recruitment in March for the busy summer season at both locations.

"We're really just focusing on quality over quantity. If you find the right people, they can do so much more than if you find some mediocre staff. It is a harder grind to find those people, but it works out in the end."

As for the customer base to date, Tara said "we have a wide range of people coming already." She said they're not a greasy spoon, offering "more of an elevated breakfast space, but nothing that's too bougie. At the end of the day, we're here to meet a need.

"I think we're going to be continually finding our groove for the first year. The seasons here are drastically different so, in that regard, things change every few months, and then it's a different curveball.

"As we see what people want, we are going to flow into the space, just asking them to bear with us.

Owners and life partners, Andrew Schroeder and Tara Schroeder at Toast in Minden. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

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Highlander sports

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This heartwarming puppet play examines the effects kindness can have on a lonely existence. Join washerwomen Betsy, Edna and Molly as they bring Mr. Hatch's story to life and help him search for his secret admirer. Puppet workshop to follow.
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Getting the job done

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School cross-country skiers have been busy in the new year. They competed at the Peterborough Liftlock Nordic Club Invitational Jan. 8. They then headed to the Kawartha Nordic Invitational, held in the rainy weather, Jan. 14. Coach Karen Gervais said "the Hawks are excited to field a competitive team in every division this year." (*Lisa Gervais*)

Top: Red Hawk Senior Boys skiers swept their field at the Peterborough Invite, taking spots 1-4. Evan Backus continues to be the top HHSS Senior Boy skier, also capturing second at the Kawartha Invitational Jan. 14. Bottom: The HHSS Junior Girls team of Quinn Hamilton, Anika Suke, Annika Gervais and Kailey Hoare continue to race strong this season, consistently placing three skiers in the top five. *Photos by Karen Gervais.*

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Highlander sports

Brooms at the ready

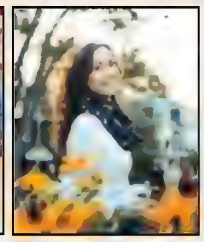
Competitors were in high spirits at the Haliburton Curling Club this past weekend for the 65th annual mens' Skyline Bonspiel. While 24 teams comprised of over 100 players duked it out Jan. 17-18, it was the father-son quartet of Jesse Colliver (lead), Steve Colliver (skip), Christopher Colliver (second) and Brent Colliver (vice) that scooped gold. All teams played a minimum of four games, with $2,370 in prize money up for grabs. Saturday night was capped by a musical appearance by County-based Canadian rocker Carl Dixon, who played in classic bands such as Coney Hatch, April Wine and The Guess Who. *(Mike Baker)*

Top left: Doug Mackay and Paul Adair guide the rock following a throw from Paul Elliott. Top right: This year's winning team was the Colliver family – Jesse, Steve, Christopher and Brent. Bottom left: Dale Sokolowski and Andy Staszak lining things up. Bottom right: Ed Witzke and Peter Sutton put their backs into it. *Photos by Steven Sherwood.*

Old Time Winter Square Dance

Presented by: Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) with Hike Haliburton – Winter Edition & February Folk Festival

Saturday, Feb 7, 2026
7:00 PM at the Haliburton Legion



All ages and abilities are welcome—no experience required. Featuring square dance caller Hannah Shira Naiman, with live bluegrass music by Nathan Smith, Kyle Kirkpatrick, and Tim O'Reilly, plus a special performance by the Haliburton Scottish Country Dancers.

Tickets: $20 for adults; $10 for college students; free for children and high school students. Available at dancehappenshere.com and Redmans Records.

Scan for tickets!

DH3 Canada

Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) is a proud part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative

Do you have newspapers from before 1980?

The Haliburton Highlands Digital Archive is seeking copies of old Haliburton County newspapers to complete their digital collection.

If you have local newspapers from before 1980 please visit **www.hhda.ca** for information on how to submit your papers to be included in the digital archive.

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• A selection of artwork from the Agnes Jamieson Gallery's permanent collection, as well as new acquisitions, is now on display. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

• Join the UFO's (UnFinished Objects Craft Group) in the Welch Room on Friday, January 23 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. All are welcome!

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

EVENTS AT THE ARENA

• Full day PA Day camp on Friday January 30th.

• Is your youth getting ready to stay home alone? Register them for the Home Alone Safety for Kids Course offered at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

Registration for both events occurs online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena front desk.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• January 22 - Regular Council Meeting

• February 12 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

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Medicine specialist to talk to seniors at legion

By Mike Baker

Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands' (ATAC) upcoming event Feb. 10, focusing on medication safety for seniors, was born out of a chance encounter between the group's lead, Bonnie Roe, and a County-based physician in a local grocery store last summer.

Dr. Barbara Clive, a geriatric medicine specialist working in the Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) clinic at the Minden Health Hub will lead next month's event, taking place at the Haliburton Legion.

Roe said it's the first of at least four planned events for ATAC this year. Speaking to her run-in with Clive, Roe said one of the key topics to be discussed is something all seniors should be wary of.

"She told me she had been thinking of getting in touch with our group because she was horrified, going out into the community and into people's homes, at the number of pills she'd found that people hadn't opened and were now old and outdated," Roe said. "She was really concerned about it, enough that she felt it would be a very beneficial topic for us to unpack through ATAC."

Clive, who has worked at the Minden facility since July 2024 following a 39-year career as a physician in the GTA, said while she spends a lot of time at the clinic, she also conducts home visits for seniors with mobility challenges.

Speaking to GAIN, Clive said there are 12 clinics across the Central East LHIN – with the one in Minden covering patients from across the Highlands. The clinic boasts specialized doctors, nurse practitioners and other professionals in the healthcare field, such as occupational therapists, pharmacists, dieticians and social workers, who all specialize in caring for the elderly.

"The people who utilize GAIN are usually elderly and quite frail – they're not your robust seniors. Patients are typically referred by their family physicians for an assessment… or by a homecare nurse," Clive said. "Probably the most common things we would see are people with memory concerns, people experiencing falls, or those on multiple medications.

"We try to sort these issues out but also work very hard connecting people with other community resources," she added.

As a geriatric medicine specialist, Clive said she makes recommendations patients can take back to their family doctor.

At next month's talk, the physician said she plans to discuss polypharmacy – the concurrent use of multiple medications - and the potential risks.

"About two thirds of people over 65 are taking five or more different medicines and almost three quarters of those are also taking over the counter, non-prescribed medications," Clive said. "So, I'll be talking about why people get prescribed so many medications – a lot of it has to do with multiple chronic diseases, multiple co-morbidities with each one having their own medicine."

She said prescription cascades – the practice of being prescribed medications to counteract the side effects of another medication - are a serious concern for the older generation and said she'll be preaching the importance of people taking control of their situation.

Clive noted that, as you age, medications are distributed differently throughout your body.

"You don't metabolize them as you did when you were young. So, there's a need for reassessing, usually once a year," Clive said. "A lot of times patients will say to me 'oh, but I've been taking those my whole life.' But that doesn't mean you should be taking it, or that you have been taking it in a safe manner.

"Taking accountability for your own medications is very important… it's kind of a miracle how many people come to a doctor's office and do not even have a list of the medications they're on. They don't know what they're taking," Clive added.

Dr. Barbara Clive, a GAIN physician at the Minden Health Hub, is the guest speaker at an upcoming ATAC Haliburton event Feb. 10 about medication safety. *Submitted.*

One of the things she advocates for is de-prescribing. She highlighted several questions she feels people should ask their family doctor or nurse practitioner regarding medication – why they are on a certain medicine; what are the benefits and potential harms; will it affect memory, or cause issues potentially leading to falls; and can you stop or reduce intake.

Clive said websites such as deprescribing.org and choosingwiselycanada.org are great resources for seniors.

This will be Clive's second time presenting for ATAC, having participated in a dementia panel in early 2023. She feels the group plays an important role in the community.

"There are very limited resources in these rural areas and so educating people about how they can help themselves and what is available is really good," Clive said. "I think when you bring people together, a lot of times people learn more from each other more than they do from a speaker."

Roe said other featured guests include Sabnam Vora and Khushboo Patel, from the Shoppers Drug Mart pharmacy, who will provide helpful tips about the expansion of a pharmacist's role. Registered practical nurse Tina Gilbert, who provides private homecare services to County residents, will also be presenting.

Attendance is by donation, with lunch provided – courtesy of the Haliburton Legion womens' auxiliary. It runs from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Register by Feb. 4 to secure your spot – contact agingtogetherhc@gmail.com or 705-879-9412. The event is supported by the County's Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC).

Highlander events

Axis Theatre of British Columbia is bringing *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch* to Haliburton Jan. 25. *Submitted.*

Sweet tale of connection

By Mike Baker

There will be a very special visitor to the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion this weekend as Razzamataz Kids' Shows returns to Haliburton

Now into its 40th year of bringing professional children's theatre to the County, the second show of the 2025-26 season happens Jan. 25, with Axis Theatre out of British Columbia performing *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch.*

The production tells the story of Mr. Hatch, a puppet who receives an anonymous love letter and sets out to find who it was from. Razzamataz spokesperson, Andrea Lithgow, said it's the perfect show for parents to bring their kids to and get a feel for the theatre.

"This is a very sweet story, it's all about the effect of kindness and how we can help people out just by spreading love and kindness around," Lithgow said. "Mr. Hatch is a character who feels pretty isolated, has a bit of a lonely existence, but is curious about who sent the letter. It has a bit of a Valentine's Day theme and is all about the power of human connection."

Only about 45 minutes in length – standard for Razzamataz's visiting productions – Lithgow said it will be a relaxed atmosphere. A long-time attendee of the shows with her own young children, Lithgow said she got involved last season because she believes so strongly in the group's mandate.

"As a parent, you're nervous that your kids might not be able to stay quiet or even last for the whole show. But it's very welcoming. Anyone who comes to our shows knows that they're very interactive, kids can have fun and there's very little stress," she said. "For most children, this will be their first taste of a theatre experience, so there's no premise of having to sit still and be quiet.

"There isn't an intermission and the productions are super professional, so the kids are always engaged. It's a very accessible bitesize experience," Lithgow added.

The show, aimed for children two to 10 years, begins at 2 p.m. with a puppet workshop to follow. Taking place in the cafeteria after the play, Lithgow said there are spots for about 15 kids. Tickets can be purchased online at razzamatazz.ca.

There will be two more Razzamataz performances to come – *The Old Man and the River* from Wee Festival on March 8 and the musical show *Earth, Seas and Air* by Chris McKhool April 12.

Also on this weekend

• It's the annual Minden District Fur Harvesters annual workshop in Wilberforce Jan. 24, taking place at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Confirmed guests and vendors include the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; Milcun Firearms Training Centre; firearms training by Luca Angilletta; Krystle Pegg to talk Citizens for Crown Land Protection; fur fashions and accessories advice by Carly Kenny; and hunting and fishing supplies by Jeff Griffin.

Admission is by donation, with non-perishable food items accepted on behalf of Central Food Network. Lunch will be provided by the Wilberforce Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

• Also Jan. 24 is Robbie Burns Night at the Haliburton Legion. Enjoy a wee taste of the Highlands with an evening of dancing, Scottish food and live music. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with tickets $30 per person.

• The Minden ice races return to the fairgrounds Jan. 24 and 25, running all day; while the returning Haliburton Highlands Dogsled Derby takes over Pinestone Resort for the weekend.

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Huskies forward Josh Denes shoots in the team's 6-2 win over the Aurora Tigers Jan. 17. *Photo by Steven Sherwood.*

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GO! HUSKIES GO!

Statement win for Huskies

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies leading goalscorer Isaac Larmand says he and his teammates are going into every game believing they can win after a week that saw them topple one of the Canadian Junior Hockey League's (CJHL) top-ranked teams.

The blue and white shocked the Trenton Golden Hawks on the road Jan. 16, besting the nation's ninth-ranked junior hockey franchise 4-2 in what Larmand called a statement win.

"We went in there knowing our systems. I think the game [on Friday] was very similar to a lot of playoff games we played last year against them. We just went in knowing what we had to do, worked hard, played physical and did all the little things right against a very skilled team," Larmand said.

The Huskies had been largely outplayed in previous tilts with the Golden Hawks this season – a 6-1 loss in Trenton Sept. 19 and a 3-2 defeat on home ice Oct. 4.

Playing in front of a capacity crowd, with a posted attendance of 639 people, the Huskies stood up to some early pressure, with the Golden Hawks buoyed by a red-hot atmosphere in the stands.

Nate Taylor delivered a defining moment late in the first, opening the scoring at 18:51 for his sixth goal of the season, assisted by Larmand and Ronen Macfarlane.

Having a lead to protect going into the second helped calm some nerves, Larmand said, with the Huskies locking in for more of the same in the middle frame. Strong defensive play in the early going stymied one of the league's best offensive outfits. Midway through the period, the Huskies were afforded a powerplay opportunity, which forward Ryan Gosse dispatched at 13:11, for his 14th of the year. Assists went to Carson Durnin, for his team-leading 27th apple, and Brody Coe, who notched his 12th helper as a Husky.

Visiting netminder Owen Edwards was impenetrable through two periods, turning away all 24 saves he faced.

Trenton rallied in the third, scoring early to make it a one-goal game, but that was as good as it got for them, with the Huskies showing no mercy in a ruthless display of attacking precision. Christopher Brydges made it 3-1 at 9:10, notching on the powerplay from Chase Del Colombo and Jack Cook, with Nic Ferrante potting a fourth at 14:32 from Gosse and Josh Denes.

Trenton added a late consolation, but the Huskies dug in to make sure of the win.

"We've got lots of confidence and feel like we can beat any team in the league," Larmand said.

Huskies 6 Aurora 2

Returning to S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Saturday, the Huskies completely dominated the Aurora Tigers in a 6-2 win.

The game was a memorable one for rookie forward Kieran Raynor, who recorded a hat-trick in his third game back with the Huskies after a stint playing with the Ontario Hockey League's Peterborough Petes.

Raynor helped himself to two powerplay goals to kickstart the scoring, also scoring the team's fifth goal in the second period. Other tallies went to Larmand – the first Husky to reach the 20-goal threshold this season – Taylor and Durnin. Carter Nadon backstopped the Huskies to the win, making 26 saves.

With those wins, the Huskies are now in a three-way tie for third place – level on points with the Newmarket Hurricanes and Pickering Panthers, while only four back of the Golden Hawks in second and five behind the East Conference's top team, the Stouffville Spirit.

With 14 games remaining in the regular season, Larmand said the team's focus is finishing as strong as possible to build momentum heading into playoffs.

"We're only a few points out of first place and we still have to play Stouffville twice. So, the ball is in our court," Larmand said.

It's a reverse double-header this coming weekend, with the Huskies travelling to Aurora Jan. 23 and hosting Trenton Jan. 24. Puck drop in Minden is 4 p.m.

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Home of the Highland Storm

Levi Kinghorn looks for a pass in the offensive zone. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Storm shut out Brock Wild

The Highland Storm U9 Yellow Sharp Electric team travelled to Cannington Jan. 17 to take on the Brock Wild in a fast-paced matchup. The team continues to do an excellent job of adjusting to full-ice play, showing strong development throughout the game.

The Storm hit the ice ready to work hard, creating lots of action around the opponent's net and generating several solid shots in the opening half of the first period. Halfway through the frame, Elliott Cybulski opened the scoring with the game's first goal, assisted by Logan Nelson and Rhys Foster. The defence battled hard through the second period, highlighted by several strong blocks from Jace Cox and Brey Woodward.

The forwards kept the pressure on, generating multiple quality scoring chances, including strong close-range shots by Zachary Collaci, Jace Cox, Jackson Cybulski, and Clayton Simms. Late in the second period, Levi Kinghorn snuck an incredible shot past the goalie, with assists from Simms and Parker Shenton. In net, Wesley Cox was outstanding once again, stopping every shot he faced and finishing the game with another shutout.

The entire team put in a strong defensive effort against a tough opponent, working together with consistent back checking and repeatedly winning puck battles. Foster, Elliott Cybulski, and Shenton showcased excellent speed and determination, hustling back to help block shots and support the defence.

Another highlight of the game was a beautiful passing play between Collaci, Elliott Cybulski, and Jackson Cybulski, demonstrating great teamwork and awareness. Kinghorn, Nelson, and Woodward also stood out for their relentless effort, staying on the puck and battling hard every shift.

The coaches are extremely proud of the progress the team has made this season and are looking forward to watching the team continue to fine-tune their full-ice rhythm at the upcoming tournament in Apsley next weekend.

Colton Guyatt, Connor Guyatt, and Logan Stancatti were missed as they were absent from the game.

STARS of the WEEK

LOGAN NELSON

He consistently puts 100 per cent into every game, and he shined this game with strong defence and forward momentum on offense.

LEVI KINGHORN

Levi consistently stays on the puck, and makes solid shot opportunities on net, and he did it once again and got the second goal of the game.

PARKER SHENTON

Parker showed great puck control delivering his teammates solid passes, while also playing a strong defensive game.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire

SCORE BOARD

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U13 Rep Curry Chevrolet vs Ennismore 7-4 L
Jan. 13 U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Brock 5-2 L
U11 Carquest Minden vs Mariposa 6-0 W
Jan. 14 U11 Rep Tom Prentice & Sons vs Sturgeon 6-4 W
Jan. 15 U15 The Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House vs Sturgeon 10-2 W
Jan. 16 U15 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Newcastle 6-3 W
U18 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Upper York 3-3 T
Jan. 17 U15 Pharmasave Minden vs Lindsay 2-0 L
U9 Sharp Electric vs Brock 2-0 W
U13 Rep Curry Chevrolet vs Sturgeon 7-6 L
Jan. 18 U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Mariposa 7-4 L
U15 Pharmasave Minden vs Durham 6-5 W
U13 Rep Curry Chevrolet vs Brock 4-2 L
U18 A&W Haliburton vs Brock 7-0 W

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed. Bridge at 1 p.m., youth dart league (ages 10-18) 6:20 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo will resume in the spring.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Office hours: Monday 3 to 6 p.m., Tuesday 5 to 9 p.m., Wednesday/Thursday 3 to 6 p.m., Friday 3 to 7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-6 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
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Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. There's darts Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 7 p.m. Cost is $5 per player.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. Jan. 27 and Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24 is seniors exercise club at 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25 is darts at 2 p.m. $5/player. There's also quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m., with the menu changing weekly. Cost is $10 per person. And open cribbage starts at 6:30 p.m., no need to pre-register.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. HHHS social rec Jan. 22 and Feb. 12 and 26 at 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. Jan. 30 and Feb. 6 and 20 is fish and chips from 5 to 8 p.m. One piece is $15, two pieces is $20. Jan. 23 and Feb. 13 and 27 is wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound. Jan. 23 and Feb. 13 and 27 is community care 55+ lunch at noon, cost is $17 per person.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Meat draw Jan. 24, 31 and Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 3 p.m. Jan. 24 is the Pat and Phyllis Gallen Lake Trout Ice Fishing Derby, weigh-in at 3 p.m. Karaoke also Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. Jan. 31 is trivia night at 7 p.m., cost is $5 per player.

EVENTS

Jan. 22, 11 a.m. to noon, join the Highland Grove library for its Savouring Stories offering. Each month, we explore the world of food through stories, history, shared experiences, and cooking. No registration required.

Jan. 24, 9 a.m. It's opening day for the Minden Ice Races. Swing by the Minden Fairgrounds to watch drivers as they manoeuvre the slick track. Spectator admission is free. Races are also running all day Sunday, with an 11 a.m. start time.

Jan. 24, 9 to 11 a.m. Community breakfast at Haliburton United Church (10 George St.), hosted by the North Entrance Masonic Lodge and Haliburton United Church. Donations are welcome and will help to support school breakfast programs in the County.

Jan. 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Trapper's workshop at the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce. Admission is by donation, with food donations to the Central Food Network welcomed. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, contact Ted at 705-448-2877.

Jan. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Infant CPR and first aid information session at Little Beans Play Café in Minden. Learn essential skills with hands-on training by CPR-certified facilitators Shay and Sarah. Cost is $40 per family. For more information, or to register, contact wellnesshubhali@gmail.com.

Jan. 25, 2 p.m. Razzamataz Kids' Shows returns to the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion with *Somebody Loves you Mr. Hatch*, a production by Axis Theatre. Tickets are $7 for children and $10 for adults. There will be a puppet workshop following the show. The combined cost for the show and workshop is $15.

Jan. 25, 6-9 p.m. Medeba is hosting an indoor community climbing experience at its location at 1270 Kennisis Lake Road. There are a range of routes for all levels of climbers. Cost is $15 per person, with shoe rentals available for $5. No registration necessary, just drop in. Also running Feb. 1 and 8.

Jan. 26, 7 p.m. The Wilberforce Heritage Guild invites you to attend its 2026 annual meeting. This will include a presentation of our events and activities of the 2025 year. All are welcome. Taking place at the Red Cross Outpost Museum (2314 Loop Rd.) For more information, contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598.

Jan. 27, all day. Drop in at any of the Haliburton County Public Library locations for Family Literacy Day fun. Create your own bookmark, explore family cookbooks, and take part in a food-themed literacy scavenger hunt. There will be reading resources sent home with every participant. No registration required. Programming available during regular hours in Wilberforce, Minden Hills, Dysart, Gooderham, Cardiff, Stanhope and Highland Grove.

Feb. 7, 10:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join the Minden and District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre for its monthly meeting. Guest speakers Connie Walker and Carolyn Perks will host a horticultural trivia contest. This is a free event, but please bring a dish to share and your own tableware, cup and cutlery.

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A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

Applications **clearly marked "Application – Short-Term Rental (STR) Licensing Officer/Enforcement Officer"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m., Friday, January 30th, 2026, via email, mail or in person. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: tvader@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the HR/Payroll Coordinator.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator.

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Highlander classifieds

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Edna Kostiuk

Edna Kostiuk passed away peacefully in the early morning of January 11, 2026 at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care Home in Minden, Ontario, in her 98th year.

Edna was born in Vimy Ridge District, near the Village of Pine River Manitoba, in October 1928. She spent her childhood years with her family in the Pine River area, before moving to Ontario and eventually settling in Toronto. Edna was an extraordinary self-made woman who worked hard throughout her life to help support her family and herself. She had several roles over the years, the most recent of which was Director at Canadian Dental Service Plans Incorporated, where she was highly regarded, and worked until her retirement. She was also a contributing author to a book called Hardships to Happiness, which tells of the history of Pine River, Manitoba and its Ukranian heritage. Edna had many interests, including nature, gardening, history, travelling, poetry, movies, music, reading, health and nutrition, and cooking. Her most cherished interest was spending time with her family, especially children; although she had no children of her own, she was a beloved 'Auntie' to all her nieces and nephews.

Edna was predeceased by her parents, Kost and Betty Kostiuk; her siblings Florence, Ernie (Lorraine, deceased), Toni (Bill, deceased), and Evelyn (Ron); as well as niece Kathy and nephew Chris. She will be dearly missed by her brother-in-law Ron Scott; nieces Sharon (Rick) and Carolyn (Jim), and nephews Jay, Jeff (Cindy) and Bill; and great-nephews Jason, Blake, and Brock, and great-niece Ashley.

A service to honour Edna will be held on Friday January 16th, 2026 at Glendale Funeral Home & Cemetery, 1810 Albion Road, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9W 5T1. Visitation will take place at 9:00 AM; the service will begin at 10:00 AM, followed immediately by interment at Glendale Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, in recognition of the wonderful care and support provided to Edna and her family over the past five years by all the staff at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care Home.

In Loving Memory of

Paula Brown

Resident of Haliburton

With heavy hearts, we share the passing of our beloved Mom, Daughter, Nana, and Sister.

Paula Joan Brown passed away peacefully in the early morning of Monday, January 12th, at the young age of 54. Beloved Mom of Brooke (Larry) and Izac (Lucy). Cherished daughter of Paul and Joan Brown.

Loving sister of Angie (Dan), Josh (Tara), and Krista. Also lovingly remembered by her Grandma, Doris Brown, and her three grandchildren, Hartlee, Blaeklynn, and Loxton. Paula was predeceased by her Grandpa, Homer Brown, and her Nana and Papa, Arthur and Lillian Johnson. Paula will be greatly missed by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

Paula lived every day to the fullest. She lived a life rooted in love, kindness, and devotion to her family. Being a Mom and Nana was her greatest joy, and she gave endlessly to those she loved. She was bright and warm, always smiling and bringing light to those around her.

Paula was well known in the community, and her friends meant everything to her. She loved jeeping and swimming, and her joy for life was felt by everyone who knew her.

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Paula's life was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at **LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**, 9 Park St., Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Snowflake Meadows would be appreciated by the family. Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

In Loving Memory of

Craig Worsfold

WORSFOLD, Craig William - passed peacefully away with his wife and life partner, Deborah, by his side on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, after a struggle with declining health, at the age of 75 years.

A lifelong member of the public service, Craig started his career as a police officer, followed by work in private security and then a stint in directing security for a large hotel. It was there that he met Deborah, and the two were married in 1982. They celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary in 2025. His last career move, and most likely his favourite, was to serve as a firefighter and later captain with the Flamborough Fire Department and then the City of Hamilton Fire Department. To say that fire safety was his passion would be an understatement. He lived and breathed this work and took immense pride in his accomplishments in the field. He later became a fire instructor, teaching young firefighters all he knew about their noble profession. Those who knew him would say he brought honour to the uniform.

He loved open spaces, water, the outdoors, music, and drums. As a teenager, he drove the family crazy with his band who made loud, and sometimes good, music in the basement. He always had a drum set, wherever he lived. His passions were varied and his interests many.

More than this, though, he was a devoted father and grandfather. His daughter Amber and son Clayton were his pride and joy, and his grandchildren Brantley and Paisley were truly the apples of his eye. He will be keenly missed by Deborah, Amber (Isma), Clayton (Katt), and, of course, Brantley and Paisley. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle. His siblings Debbie (Dan), Scott (Kerry), and Mark (Daniel) loved him dearly and will be forever grateful for his love, guidance, and friendship. Of course, he had a wide circle of friends from so many spheres of his life, and his impact on their lives will be felt indefinitely.

Funeral Arrangements

Cremation has taken place. In fulfilling Craig's wishes, there will be no public visitation or funeral. A private celebration of life will be held at a later time by the family. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Craig's memory may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada or to a charity of one's choice. Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

In Loving Memory of

Arvo Joseph Kaasalainen

Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital with his family at his side on Wednesday, January 14, 2025, in his 90th year.

Beloved husband for 65 years to Barbara (nee Gillies). Dear father of Paul and Diana of Canning Lake, John and Dawn of Barrie, Steven and Sharon of Burlington. Loving grandpa of Travis, Chrissy, Jason (Megan), Autum, Andrew, Aaron, Geoffrey, Kursten and great grandpa of Indiana, Isla and Wesley. Dear brother of the late Ernie and Karlo; survived by their children Randy, Danny, David and Sheila. Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Following the end of the 2nd World War, Jalmari, Helvi, Arvo and his brothers emigrated from Finland to Canada and settled in the Finnish Village on the south shore of Canning Lake. Arvo spent his working life teaching at the Clinton Air Force base, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and the Westwood Secondary School in Malton.

A Celebration of Arvo's Life will take place in the Spring of 2026 at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

The family would like to express special thanks to Andrew (PSW), the Minden Fire Fighters, Paramedics and staff at the Haliburton Hospital for their extraordinary help and compassion.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Laura Ann Willis (Johnson)

July 11, 1952

Laura passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 after a courageous journey with Alzheimer's.

Laura leaves behind her loving husband Dave and his children Tanya (Glen) and Teresa (Kevin), her brother Doug (Debbie) and their children Hailey, Harley and Leif. She loved her grandchildren James, Ian, Sydney and Dylan and was proud of each of them.

Laura was a devoted teacher at Haliburton Highlands Secondary where she dedicated her life to shaping young minds and bodies with patience, passion and encouragement. Teaching was more than a career to Laura, and she leaves behind many students that she guided and supported.

Laura loved to travel and many of us have wonderful memories of the times spent in many places around the world. She also enjoyed her winters in Florida. Coming home to 12 Mile Lake was always wonderful too and was a place filled with warmth, laughter and countless cherished memories with family and her many friends. Laura's kindness and gentle strength will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her physical fitness was always important to her.

Laura's family would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to the outstanding staff members at Hyland Crest, many of whom are former students. They also appreciated the caring professionals at the Haliburton Emergency Department.

A celebration of Life will be held on Laura's birthday, July 11 at the Minden Legion. Details will be shared by the family at a later date.

If you're led to a donation in Laura's memory, donations to the Alzheimer's Society or local organizations would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Marlene Mae Watson

(nee Mumford)

Passed away peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Thursday, January 15, 2026 with her loving family by her side, at the age of 88.

Beloved daughter of the late Jim and Hazel Mumford, and step-daughter of the late Gerald Stevens. Predeceased by her husband John "Jack" McCrea Watson (2010). Loving mother of Larry (Lynn) Watson and Paul (Kath) Watson. Loving gramma of Andrew (Cassy), Jeffrey (Alitsha), Nikole (Andy) and great gramma of Emmett, Bianca, Quinn, Vander and one new baby boy to be born in March. Predeceased by her sisters Lorraine Hardonk, Donna Murdock and by her brother Ivan Mumford. Lovingly remembered by her nephew Rick Murdock, niece Carol Lee Willans and also by her family and friends.

Marlene and Jack raised their family in Tory Hill and then Wilberforce. They loved to camp with friends and travel in later years. Marlene retired from the Scotia Bank in Wilberforce, she was a community care driver and helped many clients file their personal income taxes. Marlene moved to Haliburton in 2014 where she continued to enjoy time with family and friends. Marlene moved to Fairhaven Long Term Care in February 2025.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, January 24, 2026 from 12:00 o'clock noon until the time of the Service to Celebrate Marlene's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Spring Interment at the South Wilberforce Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or Parkinson Canada or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.

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Highlander classifieds

SERVICES

HANDYMAN – Carpentry, General Repairs. Call or Text Doug at 416-889-8534

KITCHEN AID STAND MIXER - Is your Kitchen Aid Stand Alone Mixer leaking oil, doesn't run as it should, or making noises? SOUNDS LIKE IT NEEDS SERVICING - I SERVICE AND REPAIR - all work is guaranteed CALL CLIFF 705-887-0770

PAINTER - Professional, experienced, and dependable painter available for residential and commercial projects — from a single room to an entire home or office. Minor repairs included at no additional charge. Call or text 647-213-2875 for a free estimate or call 705-447-2213

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $140. per face cord – pick up. Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE – 2018 Side by Side, with chains, plows & cover for machine. 14,000 kms. $14,000. or B/O also a 2023 E-Bike for $2,000. of B/O. Call for more information 705-306-4986

FOR RENT

FOR RENT – 1 Bedroom upper level apartment, screened porch, walking distance to downtown Haliburton, schools & hospital. No pets, non-smoker. $1,500. per month, includes heat, hydro, a/c and Satellite TV. Available March, call 705-455-9878

FOR RENT

FOR RENT - Bright, clean hall available for rent, seating for up to 80 people. Facility is fully accessible. Ample parking. Conveniently located within 3 kilometers of the Haliburton Hospital. Full day and ½ day rentals available. Email halihhoa@gmail.com or call 705-457-9664

WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

WANTED - Starter Motor for 2018 Ford F150 5 liter engine and also need someone to deliver my tractor home reasonable price. Call 705-286-3823

NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 83 Maple Ave. Unit 7A in Haliburton Halco Plaza, behind Castle Antiques. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

NOTICE

LOCKSMITH

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HELP WANTED

Township of Algonquin Highlands

Township of Algonquin Highlands

We are currently accepting resumes for the following position:

Sewage System Program Inspector/ Administrator

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026 to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Haliburton County Public Library Requires a

Part-time Courier

This position is responsible for the safe and timely delivery of library materials. The successful applicant will possess secondary education, a valid G licence, as well as the ability to lift and move objects weighing up to 50 lbs.

The hourly range for this permanent position is $18.48 - $21.62.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to info@haliburtonlibrary.ca no later than **Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 4:30pm**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Minden Community Food Centre

MINDEN EXCELLENCE

WE ARE HIRING

Assistant Manager, Minden Community Food Centre

We are an accredited food bank under Food Banks Canada and are looking for an assistant manager to assist with our operations in Minden, Ontario. This part-time position requires an individual with

- Good management, organizational, decision making and customer service skills
- Ability to navigate difficult situations and provide guidance as needed relating to visitors, staff, and volunteers
- Ability to multitask, delegate, and work under pressure at certain times
- Possess excellent communication and relationship-building abilities

A detailed job description can be found at www.mindencommunityfoodcentre.ca/joinus. The hourly rate is $23.34 is based on 16 hours per week.

The application deadline is February 6, 2026. Please send your resume and cover letter to: chair@mindencommunityfoodcentre.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

POSTING EXTENDED
The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires

One (1) Permanent Engineering Technologist – Operations

Reporting to the Director of Public Works, this position has primary responsibility for traffic analysis and road signage.

Preferred candidates will have post-secondary education in civil engineering or land development and 2 years of experience in road construction and maintenance, preferably in a municipal environment. Must have a valid G driver's licence. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is $36.08.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than February 6, 2026.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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Highlander classifieds

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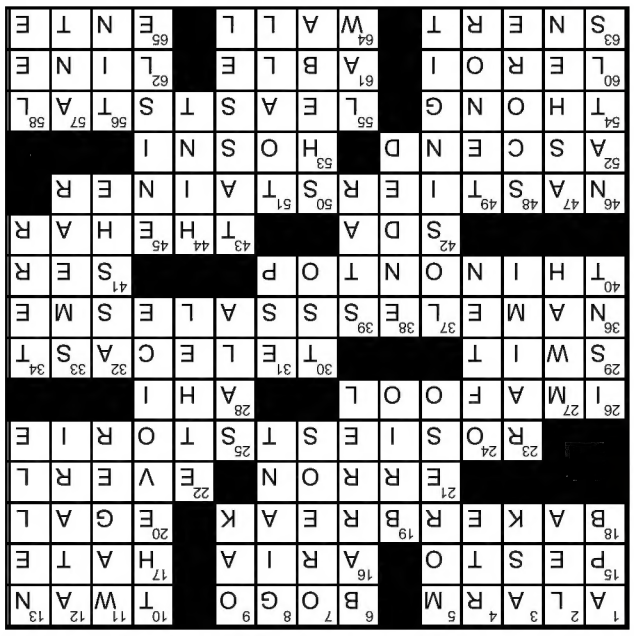
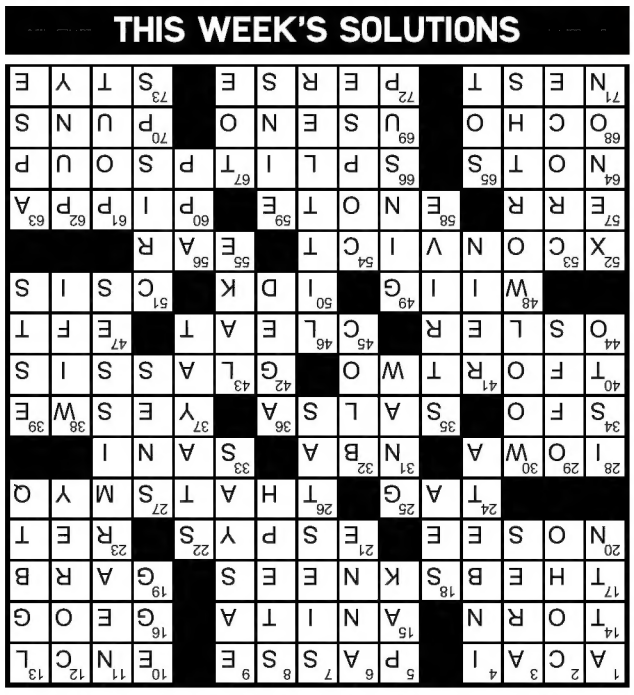
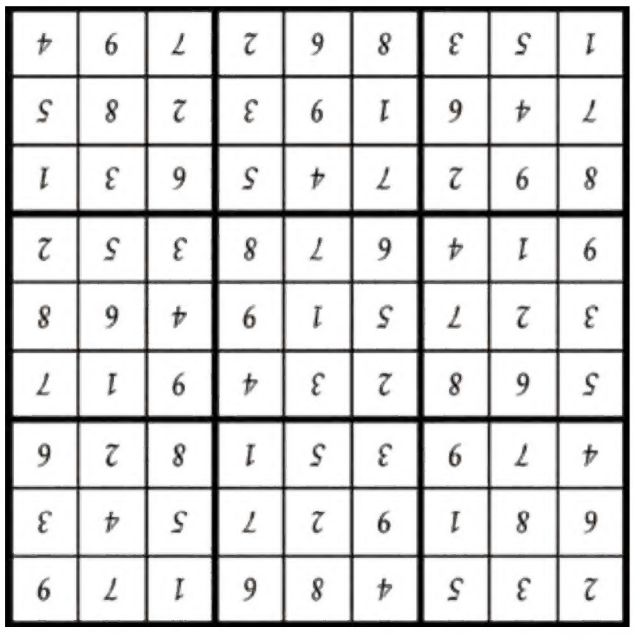
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



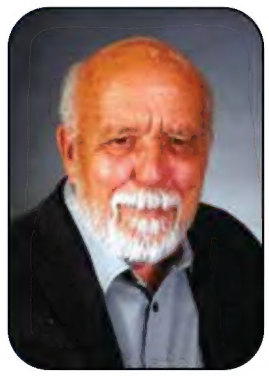


OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Dave Bonham

Feb 2, 1943 - Jan 13, 2026



Sunset arrived for Dave on January 13, 2026.

Dave Bonham was the beloved husband of Cathy; a devoted dad to Jeff (Tanya), Mark (Jessica), and Matt (Laura); and a proud grandpa to eight grandchildren.

Born on Groundhog Day in 1943 and raised in Swansea, Ontario, Dave had a lifelong curiosity about how things work. He studied mechanical engineering at Queen's, completed graduate work at McMaster, and joined the University of New Brunswick in 1974. Over the years he taught generations of students in his own quiet, unassuming way, and was known for pitching in behind the scenes, including helping to launch the annual Coaster Derby and as a founding member of the Fredericton Rowing Club.

Retirement later brought him and Cath to Gull Lake, where he was happiest spending time with family and friends. He also stayed close to his community through service, including time with Rotary and volunteer work with the Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

He was predeceased by his parents, James Thompson Bonham and Violet Beatrice Bonham; his sister Shirley Lake (Doug); and his brothers Jake Saunders (Lucy) and Glen (Mickey).

He would like to thank the Haliburton County Community Paramedic Program and the Palliative Care Team for enabling Dave to live at home until the sun set.

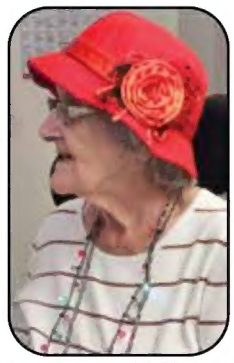
Memorial donations to Minden Rotary and/or the Minden Community Food Centre would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Shirley Appleton



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Shirley Appleton, who left us peacefully on January 15 th in her 96 th year after a brief illness. Mom was a beloved wife, parent, grandmother, and great-grandmother, whose kindness and laughter left a mark on all that knew her. Predeceased by her husband Robert Appleton of over 30 years and her son Michael Nesbitt who she will now join in heaven. Loving mother of Nancy (Ken) Gidge, Janet (Doug) Weedon, Janice (Bob) Caster and stepmother of Rick (Tess) Appleton. Fondly remembered by her many grandchildren and many great grandchildren. Also cherished friend of Judy Sterling-Cox who has provided immense love and support of Shirley for the past 3 years to which meant the world to Mom... you became another member of our family. Mom was also surrounded by her wonderful neighbours who were great friends and continued to always be there even after she left her home. For you we will always be grateful. A special thank you goes out to Extendicare in Haliburton for watching over Mom for the last year and a half. You truly are amazing people. The kind and compassionate care that you provided Mom did not go unnoticed...thank you.

Private Celebration Of Life

A private celebration of Shirley's life will take place in the spring. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Extendicare in Haliburton would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209

WWW.THEHIGHLANDER.CA

In Loving Memory of

Diana "Betty" Smith

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Diana Smith, who left us peacefully on January 9, 2026, in her 81st year. Betty was a beloved wife, parent, grandparent, sibling, and friend, whose kindness and laughter left a mark on all who knew her.

Betty is survived by her children, Cathy and spouse Roger Warner, Cindy and spouse Cliff Gould, and Tracey and spouse John Mosey. Cherished grandmother to Ashley, Stuart, Tyler, Randi, Michael, and Troy.

Betty loved bingo, playing cards, knitting, puzzles, and going for long walks. Betty's warmth, love for life, and ability to bring joy to those around her will never be forgotten. She will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege to know her.

Private Funeral Arrangements

As per the family's wishes, funeral arrangements are private. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Betty's memory can be made to a charity of your choice. Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

In Loving Memory of

Shirley (Bowman) Venner

December 24, 1934 – January 19, 2026

Shirley died in the warmth and love of her family, in person and in spirit.

Shirley has been missing Jake, the love of her life, since his death in October 2024. Her family is comforted knowing Jake and Shirl will be together again after 71 years of marriage.

She is survived by her children Debbie Fitzsimmons (Fred), Gary Venner (Anne), Gregg Venner (Diane), Vicki Haberl, (Kevin), her grandchildren Kaila Howe (Tory), Kimberley (Mark) and Catherine Fitzsimmons, Jaslyn (Owen) and Connor (Krista) Haberl, and her great grandsons Wesley and Bowen.

Shirley was the last surviving member of her family: parents Harvey and Ethel Bowman and her late sister Beverley Seitz.

Shirley was an active member of her communities in both New Toronto/Etobicoke and then Ingoldsby in the Haliburton area. Most significantly she was active in the United Churches in both communities.

A devoted stay at home Mom for their kids' early years, she went on to hone her organizational skills as secretary for Courtesy Chevrolet and Post Road leasing.

Following their retirement she developed new skills for hammering, staining, mixing cement, and all that goes with being the sub-contractor to Jake as they built their new home in Haliburton. They enjoyed endless hours landscaping and grooming their piece of paradise on Kashagawigamog Lake and loved to host family and friends with a cup of tea, a lemonade or a glass of wine.

Jake and Shirl travelled extensively. Friendships enriched their lives – they nurtured early school friendships and always embraced new relationships.

Until her last days Shirley supported her family as they grew through life's stages and challenges in Canada and Austria.

Shirley was known for her caring and selfless ways. She was interested in the lives of others and always willing to lend a hand.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Road, P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Monday, January 26th, 2026 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Shirley's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow at the Monk-Cray Family Centre in the funeral home. Cremation has taken place.

For those who cannot attend, Shirley's Celebration Service will be livestreamed at www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com. The link for the service is in the Photos and Videos and will appear the day of the service at 1:00 pm and will remain on the website for one week.

Memorial Donations to SIRCH Community Services Donate – SIRCH or Minden Community Food Centre Cash Donations Help Us Purchase Essential Perishable Items would be appreciated by the family.

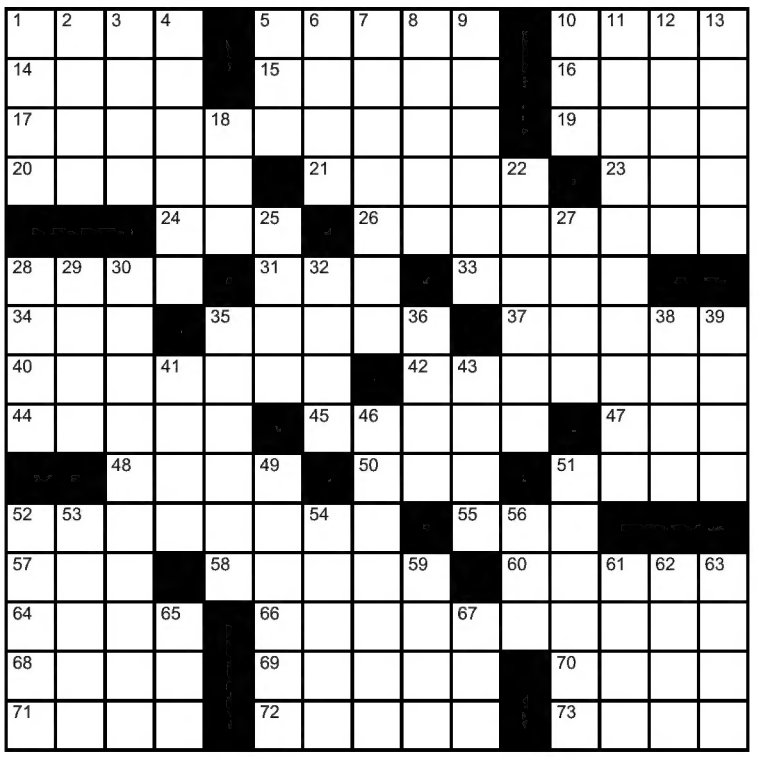
www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

Highlander puzzles

Letter Writing

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords



Across

1 Superfood berry
5 So last year
10 Bus. letter insert
14 Needing stitches, in a way
15 Former cabinet minister ___ Anand
16 Earth sci.
17 A certain letter's patellas?
19 Attire
20 "Long time ___!"
21 Annual sports prizes
23 CARP part: Abbr.
24 Identify on Facebook
26 Possessive letter owner's claim?
28 "The Hawkeye State"
31 Raptor's org.
33 Brand prefix with -Flush
34 Airport north of LAX
35 Guac go-with, often
37 "___ Can!" (Obama rally chant)
40 Letter that couples share?
42 Letters that could easily shatter?
44 Famed Canadian physician
45 Shoe gripper
47 Newt-to-be
48 "Bridesmaids" star Kristen
50 Texter's "beats me"
51 Ottawa-based spy org.
52 Letter in the lockup?
55 Place for a plug or a bud
57 Say "irregardless," say
58 Online reminder
60 Browning's girl who "passes"
64 Forget-me-___ (flowers)
66 Comfort food made with divided letters?
68 Spanish "eight"
69 "___ hooks" (crate-lifting caution)
70 Crossword contents, often
71 House of straw, maybe
72 As such
73 Peeper problem

Down

1 "Intended for" abbr.
2 Pacific salmon type
3 Greek god with a shield
4 Still being tested, as software
5 Karachi's ctry.
6 "You Needed Me" singer Murray
7 Snoozes under sombreros
8 Curry of the 31-Across
9 Breezy GPA boosters
10 Giant landmark in Vegreville, Alta.
11 Close calls
12 "Sunglasses at Night" singer Hart
13 Pride parade initials
18 Coast-to-coast body
22 Patronize, as a motel
25 Chew, as a dog bone
27 "Donkey Kong Country" console
28 Words for ":", in a ratio
29 One-___ (single-time events)
30 Old bargain store chain with a lunch counter
32 ___ Québécois (Blanchet's party)
35 Make a great effort
36 Mellowed
38 Its symbol is a dot under three arches
39 Approximations: Abbr.
41 Steed steerer
43 Canoeist's destination
46 Not as big
49 Generates excitement, slangily
51 Potato chips, to Brits
52 Gas starting with a "Z" sound
53 "Operator" singer
54 Bushy thicket
56 "There's an ___ for that"
59 Beethoven's opening number?
61 Act the sourpuss
62 Like a weakling
63 Altar's alcove
65 Oft-cut off bar patron
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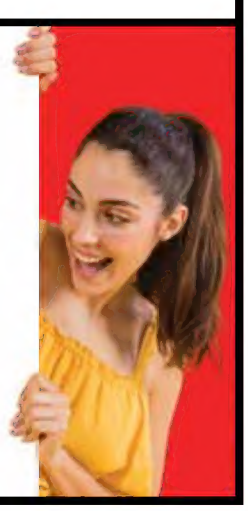

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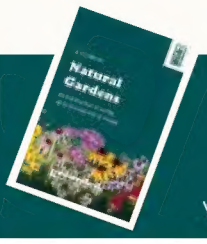

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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